

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of December 9, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated February 13, 2006. Applicant desires consideration of the proposed enclosed amendment.

Claims 19-22, 24-37, and 48-50 are pending in the application.

Claims 20-22, 25-28, 32-37, and 48-50 have been canceled. Claims 29-31 have been amended in the present amendment.

THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 19-22, 24-36, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grochowski (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,907).

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grochowski (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,907) in view of Romey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,764,355).

THE ADVISORY ACTION

The Examiner did not enter the previous amendment citing that the proposed Amendment After Final (Applicant's reply filed January 26, 2006) would combine various finally rejected claims that would create new combinations of subject matter requiring further consideration and/or search.

In response to the Advisory Action, Applicant has canceled claims 20-22, 25-28, 32-37, and 48-50. Applicant believes that the remaining claims do not create new combinations of subject matter nor raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or searching.

THE CLAIMS DISTINGUISH OVER THE REFERENCES OF RECORD

As the Examiner is aware, applicant claims a method of treating fluids by use of at least one bulk material comprising flowing a fluid substantially through a plurality of bulk material beds, the fluid flowing from a bottom to a top of at least one bulk material bed. The bulk material is moved countercurrent to the flow of the fluid through at least one of the bulk material beds.

Independent claim 19 has been amended and now includes the limitation of dependent claim 28 et al. Namely, independent claim 19 now recites a **movable** bulk material delivery mechanism to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material to said at least one bulk material bed wherein said movable bulk material delivery mechanism is movable to a plurality of said bulk material beds (refer to Figure 6a). In contrast, the '907 patent does not relate to bulk material moving beds in which the bulk material is fed by a movable bulk material delivery mechanism. The '907 patent further describes "... a fluidized bed reactor (12) consisting of altogether eight parallel-operating treatment reactor (10) ... each individual treatment reactor has a bulk material supply bin (17) ..." (column 5, lines 20-35). In particular, the '907 patent recites "*each individual treatment reactor has a bulk material supply bin (17), a bulk material distribution base (18) with an integrated fluid collection space (31) that is also connected with the fluid outlet openings (16), a bulk material layer (19) whose height is essentially constant over the cross section of the reactor, a flow-past base (20) with a fluid distribution space (32) that is connected with the fluid intake openings (15), a uniform removal device (21) for used bulk*

material, lockable bulk material removal pipes (22) as well as a collection bin (23) for the removed bulk material” (column 5, lines 34-43). The ‘907 patent does not include any description or suggestion for a movable bulk material delivery mechanism movable to a plurality of bulk material beds. The only suggestion for a movable bulk material delivery mechanism comes from the present disclosure. Thus, Applicant’s invention is not anticipated nor made obvious by the ‘907 reference.

Claims 29-31 have been amended wherein their dependency has been changed from claim 28 to claim 19, while also attending to antecedent basis. Therefore, independent claim 19, and all claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated for at least the reasons stated above.

Claim 24 has been amended and now includes the limitation of claim 25. Namely, claim 24 now recites “. . . a **movable** bulk material delivery mechanism to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material to said ~~at least one~~ plurality of said bulk material beds; said movable bulk material delivery mechanism includes a container, said container including a plurality of slit openings or linear openings that are used to at least partially deliver said at least one bulk material ~~in to~~ said at least one plurality of said bulk material beds . . . “. Independent claim 24 recites a **movable** bulk material delivery mechanism which includes a container for delivering bulk material to a plurality of bulk material beds. Further, claim 24 recites that the container is **movable** on guides, and that the container includes a trough with closable unloading openings which are arranged over a trough floor in a surface distribution. The arguments raised above with respect to independent claim 19 are equally appropriate here and will not be repeated. For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 24 is not anticipated nor made obvious by the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated December 9, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated February 13, 2006 has been addressed. All formal and informal matters having been addressed, this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Amendment is being
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Date March 16, 2006	Name Adeline Machado
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